

Where do we begin?

Contact a Family Resources Coordinator (FRC)

- The FRC can help you find information about:
 - Specialized services for infants and toddlers with hearing loss
 - Parent support and counseling
 - Funding
- To find the FRC in your area, call Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies at 1-800-322-2588 or through Relay Services by dialing 711 or go to the Infant Toddler Early Intervention website at www1.dshs.wa.gov/iteip/

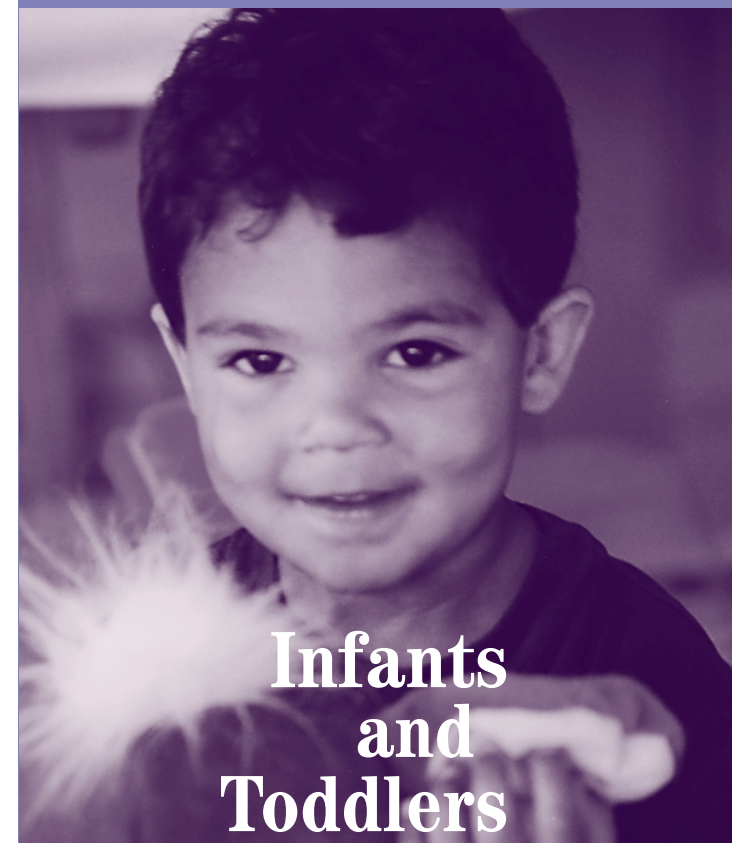
Other resources:

- Boys Town National Research Hospital
www.babyhearing.org
402-498-6511 or TTY 402-498-6543
- Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP): <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/iteip/>
360-725-3500 or TTY 360-407-1087
- National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM)
<http://www.infanthearing.org>
435-797-3584 or use 711 Exchange
- Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH), <http://odhh.dshs.wa.gov>
360-902-8000 Voice/TTY
or 1-800-422-7930 Voice/TTY



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**Infants
and
Toddlers**
who are
**Deaf
or Hard of Hearing**

For help
and information...

www1.dshs.wa.gov/iteip/

Introduction

You have just learned that your child has a hearing loss. This may be an overwhelming time, but you are not alone. There is help and support available for your child and family.

You probably have many questions. This pamphlet will help you find answers and begin to explore the choices available for your child and family.

This is a start. You and your child will be learning along the way. We hope this pamphlet is helpful, now and in the future.



Interventions and Treatments Resource Options

“After we took advantage of the wonderful early intervention services available to us, we discovered how hopeful our daughter’s future really was.”

– Bob K., Spokane, WA
Father of 6 year old Katie

Below is a list of professionals who may provide services for a child and family.

Audiologists are specialists trained to test hearing. The audiologist recommends and fits hearing aids and other listening devices.

Aural Rehabilitation Specialists develop your child’s listening skills to help your child learn speech and language.

Counselors/Therapists give emotional support for children and families. You or a member of your family can see a counselor or therapist to help with emotional issues surrounding your child’s hearing loss.

Early Intervention Specialists work with families of children with communication and learning needs. They work with children 0-3 years of age. They may also perform evaluations and assessments of your child’s abilities.

Family Resources Coordinators (FRC) help families with children under 3 years of age decide what services they need and how to pay for services.

Ear/Nose/Throat (Otolaryngologists) doctors are specialists who diagnose and treat ear infections and who may be able to identify the cause of a child’s hearing loss.

Speech Language Pathologists provide therapy to help make your child’s speech more understandable.

Teacher’s of the Deaf or Hard of Hearing are specialists who are trained to work with children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Many other therapists, such as physical therapists or occupational therapists, are also available to assist in your child’s development as determined by your child’s developmental needs.

Communication Methods

Families choose from a variety of options that fall into three areas:

- **Oral Communication** uses a child’s remaining or aided hearing to learn spoken language.
- **Manual Communication** uses only sign language.
- **Total Communication** uses spoken language and sign language at the same time.

More details about these options are available.